



## SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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**PUB 08**

October 3, 2005

Dear Participant:

**Subject: Semi-Annual Lake Okeechobee Operations Overview**

The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) will be holding a public meeting on "Lake Okeechobee Operations," on October 26, 2005. In order to conserve fuel, this meeting will be combined with the October 26 Water Resources Advisory Commission Lake Okeechobee Committee meeting. The location is the SFWMD headquarters, at 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach. The workshop will take place in the Auditorium of the B1 Building and will begin at 1:00pm.

The purpose of this meeting is to provide an overview of regional hydrologic and ecological conditions and Lake operations for the last six months, and projected conditions and operations of the Lake for the next six months. In addition, there will be a general overview of system-wide operations. Staff from the SFWMD, United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) will be participating in the workshop and will be available to address technical questions from the audience.

The preliminary agenda for this portion of the meeting is as follows:

- (1) Introductory comments and overview of the workshop (SFWMD staff)
- (2) Technical summaries, including climate and hydrologic conditions, operations during the last six months, ecological status of the lake, estuaries, and water conservation areas, climate and water supply outlook (SFWMD, USACE, and FWC staff)
- (3) Projected Lake operating strategy for next six months (SFWMD and USACE staff)
- (4) Open floor for comments from other state, federal, or tribal representatives
- (5) Open floor for comments and discussion with all workshop participants

This discussion provides an important venue where the SFWMD can obtain input from other agencies and the general public regarding operation of Lake Okeechobee, as well as other portions of the system, in order to help optimize the Lake's values for many regional uses. The SFWMD Governing Board will be briefed on the results of this meeting, including the main points raised by the participants. You are cordially invited to attend to voice your opinions and/or concerns regarding management of the Lake and regional system during this period of time, as well as in future months.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Gray", is written over a horizontal line.

Susan Gray, Ph.D., Director  
Lake Okeechobee Division  
Watershed Management Department

SG/jf

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